GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2683
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Agricultural Education
Raj Dr. Udit

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the country are mostly poor and have very small land holdings and lack access to both technology and knowledge about advanced methods of farming, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the Government schemes for providing agricultural education to farmers;

(c) the number of farmers which have been provided education under these schemes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase coverage of farmers under these schemes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) According to the survey on 'Situation of Agricultural Households in India' conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSS70th round)(January-December, 2013), 69% farmers households in the country have landholdings measuring less than or equal to one hectare, and another 17% have landholdings between 1-2 hectares. According to the said survey, the progressive farmer and mass media (including radio, TV, newspaper and internet/mobile) are the two main sources of technical advice being accessed by 20% and 19.6% of the households, respectively. Govt. sources (extension agent, KVKs, agricultural universities and Veterinary department) are accessed by 18% of the households. Farmers also access information from more than one source and hence on the whole, about 41% of the farm households have accessed technical advice from various sources.

(b) The National Agricultural Research System provides information to farmers (i) through frontline demonstrations and training programmes through a network of 642 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and farmers' fairs organized by most of the Agricultural Universities and Research Insitutes in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare through Deptt. of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is also implementing Plan schemes, viz., Kisan Call Centres (KCC) & Farmers' Portal for providing improved services to the farming community through use of ICT enabled means-SMS, IVRS, USSD, Internet kiosks etc.

(c) During the last one year the KVKs imparted training to 15.27 lakh farmers, rural youth and extension personnel on improved technologies related to agriculture. The KCC launched since 21st January 2004 has registered more than 1.85 crore calls till December, 2014.

(d) The Govt. has established KVKs in almost every district of the country to provide technical advice to the farmers. A dedicated Kisan Channel has also been launched w.e.f. 26 May, 2015 for the benefit of farmers in the Country. The Govt. has also established State of the Art KCCs at 14 identified locations with strengthened ICTs to provide information to the farmers.

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